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For more information on the Office of Cultural Affairs visit
<http://www.cityofboston.gov/arts>

1. Boston Cultural Agenda Grant Information Session 1/5

The Office of Cultural Affairs will host an information session for the 2004 Boston NOW Cultural Agenda Grants on **Monday, January 5th**. The session will last from noon-2pm and will take place at Boston City Hall, Room 801.

The application process has significantly changed from previous years and all applicants, including those who have previously submitted a [Boston Cultural Agenda](#) Grant application, are strongly encouraged to attend. For the first time concept papers must be submitted initially. The deadline for concept papers is January, 13 2004 by 5PM at the Office of Cultural Affairs – [Boston City Hall, Room 716](#).

In addition to a complete overview of the changes in application procedure, this information session will also introduce key OCA staff, present an overview of current city cultural initiatives, discuss successful Boston Cultural Agenda-funded projects, and provide feedback on preparing proposals.

Please RSVP to Richard Andrade at
Richard.Andrade@ci.boston.ma.us or (617) 635-3245

Guidelines and application forms for 2004 Boston NOW Cultural Agenda Grants are available on the Office of Cultural Affairs website at <http://cityofboston.gov/arts/fund.asp>

2. Winter Issue of Boston NOW Available Throughout the City

The Winter Issue of Boston NOW is currently available [throughout the city](#) at all [Boston Centers for Youth and Families](#) and all branches of the [Boston Public Library](#) as well as City Hall, hotels, and other locations throughout the neighborhoods.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, January 5
 Information Session
 2004 Boston NOW
 Cultural Agenda Grants
 Boston City Hall
 Room 801
[RSVP](#)

Tuesday, January 13
 Concept Papers Due
 2004 Boston NOW
 Cultural Agenda Grants
 Boston City Hall
 Room 716, 5pm
[more](#)

Now – January 16
 Christina Beckstein
 Individual Artist/Humanist
 Fellowship Recipient
 Mayor's Gallery
 Boston City Hall

January 18 – February 27
 Black History Month
 Exhibition
 James Reed & Alan Crite
 Scollay Square Gallery
 Boston City Hall

The Winter Issue of Boston NOW contains more than 200 listings of cultural events of all types and sizes throughout all 19 Boston neighborhoods.

Be sure to also visit official Boston NOW web site at www.wbzt4.com/bostonnow for continuously updated event listings and more throughout the winter.

3. Performers: Register for Growing Performing Arts Roster!!

The Office of Cultural Affairs is pleased to report that the Boston NOW Performing Arts Roster is growing rapidly. More than 100 performers and groups have already registered, but we know there are many, many more performers and groups in Boston still not listed.

If you are a performing artist or organization and would like to register, visit <http://cityofboston.gov/arts/artsroster.asp>

When completed, this new roster and database will provide a vital link between Boston presenters, both public and private, and the Boston arts community. With a simple click of a mouse, event planners such as the [Boston Parks Department](#), the [Boston Public Library](#) and others will soon be able to find the Boston Artist/group they need for a particular event, whether it be a 10,000-person event on City Hall Plaza, a corporate holiday party, or a family gathering in one of Boston's neighborhood parks.

This roster will directly link public and private cultural presenters with performers. Accessing this roster will enable presenters to read descriptions of the artists' program offerings, understand their technical requirements, learn about their ability to speak about their work, and provide professional references.

For more information contact Roster Coordinator Ruth Birnberg at ruth.birnberg@cityofboston.gov

4. OCA Launches Folk & Traditional Arts Program

The Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce the new Folk & Traditional Arts Program for the City of Boston. With generous support from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) and a family foundation, this program identifies and documents folk and traditional artists and groups in Boston, offers technical assistance to traditional artists, and creates and manages a publicly-accessible archive and database of traditional arts materials.

The Folk & Traditional Arts Program is directed by Sally Van de Water, under the supervision of OCA Commissioner Esther Kaplan. Prior to coming to Boston, Van de Water worked on statewide folk heritage programs in Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Kentucky. She received her Master's Degree from Western Kentucky University and is an alumna of Bryn Mawr College.

Already finding outlets, Van de Water writes a brief story for the [LINC](#) e-newsletter, introducing young professionals to diverse cultural opportunities city-wide. So far, she has highlighted Chinese Dancer Chu Lin and Shaolin Master Bow Sim Mark.

January 18 – February 27

Black History Month Exhibition

Alan Rohan & James
Reuben

(In conjunction with the
Museum of the National
Center of Afro-American
Artists)

Mayor's Gallery
Boston City Hall

Tuesday, February 10

Final Proposals Due 2004 Boston NOW

Cultural Agenda Grants
Boston City Hall
Room 716, 5pm

[more](#)

March 1 – March 26

Women's History Month Exhibition

Meredith Berman
Highlights of the New
Women's Memorial

Mayor's Gallery/Scollay Sq.
Boston City Hall

Chinese lantern and dragon and phoenix masks. Don't miss them!

Folk and traditional arts are shared, group cultural expressions. They often change over time, adapting to a new generation or a new region, but they stay recognizable from one place to another. They're generally learned in an informal setting, from someone steeped in the tradition. Folk and traditional cultural expressions can be found everywhere, and especially in ethnic, occupational, religious, and regional groups. Folk and traditional arts are the means by which we express our cultural heritage through everyday life. These expressions can be easily recognizable, such as community festivals, dance, and music, but they can also take more subtle forms like quilting, fishing techniques, instrument making, and food.

The Annual Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony on the North End waterfront, the intricate feathered costumes of the Caribbean Festival and seijins of Irish musicians are all examples of the many folk and traditional arts that bring a unique richness and meaning to life in Boston.

If you would like more information, or would like to recommend an artist or group you know to the program, please contact Sally Van de Water at sally.vandewater@cityofboston.gov.

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